

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A WDM optical communication system, said system comprising:

input means and output means for an optical signal, an optical fibre path connecting signal-transmissively said input and output means, wherein the optic signal is amplified by means of Raman amplification and said optical fibre path comprises at least one Raman amplifier, further comprising WDM means for coupling at least two polarized pump radiation wavelengths with wavelengths less than the signal radiation wavelength into said Raman amplifier, wherein the polarization of one of the pump radiation wavelengths is maintained at a predetermined difference in polarization ~~has a selected different polarization~~ with respect to the polarization of the other pump radiation wavelengths,

wherein,

the polarization of the pump radiations of the lower part of the pump wavelength band is orthogonal with respect to that of the upper part.
2. (ORIGINAL) Amplifier according to claim 1, characterized in that the Raman amplification is a distributed Raman amplification.